

than and has a different configuration than the top filter surface as shown by Price '628, the particles of a slurry to be filtered would separate from the slurry. That is, the solid portion of the slurry would separate from the liquid portion of the slurry. That is undesirable since it is important that the slurry be retained with a solid particle mixed with liquid. The sole purpose of the filter is to remove the undesired large particles from the slurry so that the final filtered product comprises the slurry containing solid particles of desired size and free of undesired large particles. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

The claims have been objected to as not having a paragraph format. The format has been changed as the Examiner requests. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

It is requested that the Examiner reconsider the request to limit the independent process claims to a ceria-based slurry since the process is the same regardless of the slurry being filtered. The filter does not react either chemically or biologically with the particles being filtered. In all case, the filter functions to effect retention of larger particles in the slurry while permitting passage therethrough of particles of desired size in the slurry. Success in the filtration process does not depend upon the chemical or biological composition of the slurry.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims define patentable subject matter and an early Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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